

Remarks

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 22, if rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 1, would be allowable. Applicants have amended claim 22 to include claim 1 and to put claim 22 in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McHorse et al. (USPN 6,073,714). Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kincaid et al. (USPN 5,954,353) in view of McHorse et al. Kincaid is relied upon for its disclosure of a stabilizer bar assembly that is used with an axle assembly and suspension system. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include limitations corresponding to the argument previously presented in Applicants' prior amendment. The Examiner indicated that, with respect to amended claim 1, features were pointed out in the explanation at the bottom of page 8 and top of page 9 that were not included in the claim and were not addressed by the Examiner. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features described in the prior Amendment that were not included in claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10 in view of the amendments to claim 1.

The McHorse patent fails to disclose a stabilizer bar assembly in which a first bushing has a groove that receives an annular ring formed on the stabilizer bar which contacts opposite sides of the annular ring to resist lateral movement of the stabilizer bar and a second bushing that does not receive an annular ring. The second bushing is adapted to be attached to the stabilizer bar in a range of locations to accommodate tolerance stack-up and which is aligned with a second location on the vehicle. The McHorse reference, therefore, does not anticipate Applicants' invention as claimed in amended claim 1.

The Kincaid patent, as acknowledged by the Examiner, fails to teach or suggest the claimed mounting bracket assemblies. The Examiner relies upon McHorse for the structure of the mounting bracket assemblies (114, 116). The mounting brackets 36 in Kincaid are not described in any detail and clearly do not disclose the first and second bushings as now claimed

in amended claims 1 and 11. It is respectfully submitted that neither the Kincaid reference or the McHorse reference disclose or suggest or otherwise render obvious Applicants' claimed invention as now claimed in amended claim 1.

Claim 11 has also been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. Claim 11 has been amended to specify that both a first and second bushing are provided as part of the stabilizer bushing assembly. The first bushing engages the convex protrusion from the stabilizer bar to resist lateral movement of the stabilizer bar relative to the bushing. The second bushing, however, has a second inner surface adapted to engage the stabilizer bar and a second outer surface having a second rib. The second inner surface engages the stabilizer bar at a location that does not have a protrusion. The other amendments to claim 11 are intended to make the claim more definite in view of the addition of a second bushing in the claimed combination.

Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1. Applicants request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney if it would advance prosecution of this case. Applicants have amended the claims of the application to place this case in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

No additional fee is believed to be required for the conversion of claim 22 from a dependent claim to an independent claim. The total number of independent claims remaining

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after this amendment is three. The total number of claims remaining is 20. Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Ford Global Technologies, LLC Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,
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